

<https://helda.helsinki.fi>

66. Request for transfer of taxation

Vierros, Marja Kaisa

American center of oriental research
2018

Vierros , M K , Gagos , T & Koenen , L 2018 , 66. Request for transfer of taxation . in A
Arjava , J Frösén & J Kaimio (eds) , The Petra Papyri V . vol. 5 , American Center of Oriental
þý Research Publications , vol. 8 , American center of oriental research ,

<http://hdl.handle.net/10138/311937>

publishedVersion

Downloaded from Helda, University of Helsinki institutional repository.

This is an electronic reprint of the original article.

This reprint may differ from the original in pagination and typographic detail.

Please cite the original version.

66. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF TAXATION

Inv. 70	at least 118 x at least 16 cm	Petra
Field No. XXXIVk	left margin 4.5 cm	September 17, 549 (?)
Glass Plates 244–47	right margin 6 cm	
Plates CXIV–CXIX	top margin 1.5 cm	

This papyrus was found together with a group of other documents (**23**, **25–27**), with a string attached loosely around them (see below). The text was written along the fibers in one wide column, in a cursive hand sloping to the right, like all the other requests for transfer of taxation in Petra, and some of the tax receipts. The roll was broken into (at least) two parts. The fragments DB form the first five lines, while the fragments EC contain seven or eight lines below them. We do not know how much, if anything, is missing between DB and EC, since they can nowhere be securely joined. The traces of a line in the topmost EC fragments might come from the same line as the traces of the fifth line in the DB fragments. The height of the DB fragments is 6 cm, and that of the EC fragments 10 cm. Assuming that the roll was 26–29 cm wide, as was typical in Petra, as much as 10–13 cm may be missing at the bottom.

Empty layers are extant both in the roll's core and on the outer surface, giving us the left and right margins. The beginnings of the lines were in the core and are thus in a better state of preservation. Only ca. 60 first letters in each line are on fragments that can be joined to form a more or less consecutive text. After that, the order of the fragments becomes very uncertain, so that three-fourths of each line (ca. 180 letters) is in very poor shape, thus rendering obscure the exact circumstances of the request.

The width of the column, i.e., the length of the lines, makes this document exceptional. So far, 86 cm has been the widest column in Petra (**23**). Here, the existing fragments measure ca. 108 cm of text and some 10 cm of margins; moreover, some fragments may contain two or more unseparated layers.¹ According to the restored dating formula, the first line consisted of 241 letters. At the beginning of the lines, there are 32–35 letters per 15 cm; at the same ratio, 241 letters would take 103–12 cm, which tallies with our reconstruction. Very similar hands appear in the tax receipt **8** (especially its more carefully written first line) and in **25** (though the hand is smaller). In the end, there are traces of at least one other hand, but this is all that has been preserved of the signatures, which may have taken several lines.

The date is poorly preserved, but the regnal year is obviously that of Justinian. The indiction year is clearly the 13th, and the Macedonian day the 30th of Gorpiaios. The 13th indiction in the reign of Justinian must be either A.D. 549 (23rd regnal year) or 564 (38th regnal year). The year 534 is out of the question, because the dating formula is used in the form it received only after 537 (Nov. Just. 47); see P. Petra I, pp. 17, 23. The contents, which may be linked with a similar request (**25**), also favor the earlier date. Thus, following the fragment codes,

1. The notes made right after conservation suggest that the roll must have been originally at least 135 cm, but this may be an overestimation.

we have arranged the transcript to present Justinian's 23rd regnal year and the 9th postconsular year of Basilios. However, not all the fragments fit this interpretation, so the arrangement must remain tentative.

There are strong reasons to connect this document with another request (*epistalma*), **25**, written in January 559 and found in the same bundle of papyri.² Both texts refer to one and one-ninth *iugerum* of the *patrimonium*, and the Arabic toponyms are at least partly the same. In **25**, our well-known deacon, Theodoros, son of Obodianos, sold the field in question to a presbyter Philoumenos, son of Gerontios, or rather to his church or monastery, and the tax burden was transferred on the same day from Theodoros to Philoumenos. Since **66** predates **25** by ten years (if the date is correct), it probably represents the previous sale of the same plot. Quite likely, this very same sale is also mentioned in **25** 8, which states that the deacon Theodoros had earlier received the plot from another, now deceased Theodoros, son of Patrikios. Hence, in the present document, the new owner, carrying the lay title εὐδοκιμώτατος in l. 10, is probably our deacon Theodoros, prior to his entering an ecclesiastical career. This would thus be the last surviving document wherein he is still a layman.

The first person to sign the request is also called Theodoros, most likely the other Theodoros, son of Patrikios—in this case, the old owner, who submits the request. The possibility cannot be excluded, however, that the request might have been jointly filed by both parties, so that Theodoros, son of Obodianos, could have signed first. Very little survives of the first signature, but the handwriting might have been the practiced sloping cursive of Theodoros, son of Obodianos.

The text suggests (ll. 6–7) that taxes for the said field had been paid by someone from an eighth indiction year until a twelfth indiction, which must be the year before the current one. The most likely explanation is that Theodoros had bought the field from his namesake already a few years before (in 544/45), but the tax registers had not been updated, so that he had paid the taxes through the former owner, as seems to have been very common in Petra. The ultimate reason for such arrangements is not clear. It may be noted that, in August 17, 544, the liability to pay the taxes on another agricultural plot was transferred to Theodoros (**23**), indicating that Theodoros was already at that time involved in changes of tax liabilities and could also have entered his ownership of this property into the tax registers, had he wanted to do so.

The last question is what united the texts in the string-tied bundle. The known time span of all the texts is from 539 to 559. As shown above, **25** and **66** were probably associated with the same piece of land, while **23** was a request of a similar type.³ We do not know why **26** and **27** were wrapped around **25**: they are very fragmentary, possibly letters. According to the conservation drawing, **18** must also originally have been inside the string. It does not, however, have any obvious relationship with the *epistalmata*, being a change of dowry agreement between Theodoros and his father-in-law Patrophilos in 539 (property in Serila is mentioned); Dusarios, son of Valens, was Patrophilos' father-in-law and guarantor. In **23** (544), the taxation burden is transferred from Dusarios to Theodoros. The handwriting in **18** is exceptionally of the sloping cursive style, even though the document is a contract written *transversa charta*. Although **23**, **25**, and **66** were written in the same style, such is expected of *epistalmata*, documents always written in the column format. In **26–27**, the main hand bears resemblance to this style of writing as well.

→

- 1 ἡ βασιλ[εί]α το[ῦ] θ[ε]οδώρου καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότη[ου] Φλ(αουίου) Ἰουστινιαν[νοῦ] τοῦ
[αἰώ]ν[ου] καὶ ἀντοκράτορος [Αὐγούστου] ἔξ[ου]ς εἰ[ς] κοστοῦ τρίτ[ου] μ[ε]τὰ τῇ[ν] ὑπατείαν
Φλ(αουίου) Βασιλίου τοῦ ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) τὸ θ[ε]οδώρου [π]ρ[ὸ] πεντεκαίδεκα καλ[αν]δῶν Ὀκτωβρίων ἔτ[ους]
τῆς ἐπαρχείας τετρακο[σιο]στοῦ τετάρτου μηνὸς

2. In **25** 10 comm. (on one and one-ninth *iugerum* of patrimonial land), we stated that “the same number appears also in Inv. 70 but there is no evidence that the two texts are related.” This was too cautious, because the string which tied these documents together clearly suggests some kind of connection.

3. **24**, the duplicate of **23**, was not in the same bundle, since it comes from the Field No. XXI.

- 2 Γορπ[ιαίο]ν τριακάδι χρόνων τρικαιδεκάτης ἰνδικτίονος ἐν μητροπόλ[ει] Π[έτ]ρα τ[ῆ]ς Π[α]λα[ιστιν]ῆς
Τρίτ[η]ς C[α]λο[υ]ταρίας. c. 130 καὶ τοῖς κατὰ καιρὸν[ν]
- 3 γενομέν[οι]ς ὑποδέκταις ἐπιτέλλω τὰ ὑπ[ο]τεταγμένα· ἐπ[ί]περ προ[c. 6].[.]ι.[.] c. 7] ἐξεχωρ[η]
c. 160]
- 4 [τό]πῳ Μα[λ ελ-]Ἀμρα [ῆτο]ι Μαλ ελ-[.]μεαα κ[.] c. 155] μίας[γε]ωργίας [.]ο ἐμ[η]ς [.]π[.]ος
ἐμ[.]τ[.]ωδ[c. 6]θε[c. 155]του
5 traces

- 6 [0-2]προ[.]α. οὐς[η]ς ὀγδόη[ς ἰν]δικτί[ονος] καθ' ἔτος τ[ὴν] [.]τ[οῦ] αὐτοῦ [ἐπιρ]ύτου χ[ωρί]ου
συντέλ[ειαν c. 165]
- 7 ἄλλα [.]την κ[ατ]αβ[εβλ]η[θ]αι παρ' αὐτοῦ μέχρι τ[ῆ]ς νυν[.]δι. αμ[.] δωδεκ[άτη]ς ἐπινεμ[ήσεως]
ὡς εἴρηται [.]υ[.]θητον [c. 8]η.αι το [c. 7] c[.]υντελ[c. 118]
- 8 [κ]αὶ συ[.]αις εἰ[.]ειδαμο[.] [κ]ατὰ τ[.]ιονγ[.] μ[εταξὺ] ἡμ[ῶν] ἀμ[φοτ]έρων[ν] [c. 6].ετ[
c. 18]ο προ[.] c[.] κατὰ γε[c. 145]
- 9 [π]ρο[ς] ἡκον. τούτου χάριν τὸ παρ[ὸν] γε[γένηται] ἐπίσταλμ[α πρὸς] τ[ὴν] [ς]ὴν αἰδεσι[μότητα] [.]
c. 18]ετα και [.] . cou . μεν[c. 145]
- 10 [πα]τριμονίου ἰούγε[ρ]ον ἐν ἔννατον, τοῦτο δὲ βαρεῖν τὸν λόγον καὶ πρόσωπον τοῦ εἰρημέγου
εὐδοκί[μ(ωτάτου)] Θεοδώρου Ὀβοδιανοῦ [ἀπ]ὸ τ[ῆ]ς παρούς[ης] [c. 118] πρὸς γὰρ
ἀφάλειαν ὑμετέραν]
- 11 [καὶ] τοῦ δημοσίου λόγο[ν] καὶ ἡμῶν δὲ αὐτῶν ὁμολογήσαντες τοῦτο κυρῶ[ς]αι θ[.] [c. 6].η[c. 12
].[.] . . . υφ[c. 140]
- 12 [.]ρ. γα. οὐς . . . β[.] πάντων ὡς προέγραπ[τ]αι [ἀ]κούσθω[ς. m2 †] Θεόδωρος [.] . . [c. 6].[
c. 160]
- 13 traces

1 ἐπαρχίας 2 ἰνδικτίωνος 3 γινομένοις ἐπεῖπερ 6 ἰνδικτίωνος κατ' ἔτος ἐπιρρύτου 9 αἰδεσιμότητα 10 πατριμονίου ἔνατον
11 ὁμολογήσαντες

TRANSLATION

(Lines 1–2) † In the twenty[-third] year of the reign of our most divine and pious Lord Flavius Justinianus, [Eternal and] Emperor [Augustus, in the 9th year after the consulship of the most glorious] Flavius [Basilus, fifteen days before] the Kalends [of October, in the four hundredth, forty-fourth] year [of the] province, on the thirtieth day of the month of Gorpiaios, in the thirteenth indiction year, in Petra, Metropolis of the Third Palestine Salutaris.

(Lines 2–4) . . . [to the most respectable tax collector N, son of N, and to the] present and future tax collectors, I notify (you) of the following. Since . . . ceded in the location Mal [el-]Amra or Mal el-[]meaa one field . . . my eight(y?) . . .

(Lines 6–9) . . . previous? eighth indiction, every year the tax for the same [well-watered] field has been paid by him until the now . . . twelfth indiction year, [as] stated tax between us both belonging/befitting.

(Lines 9–12) Therefore, the present request has been addressed [to your respectability] one and one-ninth *iugerum* of the *patrimonium*, and burden this on the account and person of the said most honorable [Theodoros, son of Obodianos from] the [present for your security and that] of the public treasury and ourselves, agreeing to ratify this all, as has been written above accordingly. [(2. H.) † I.] Theodoros . . .

COMMENTARY

1 Φλ(αουίου) Ἰουστινιαν[νοῦ] τοῦ [αἰω]ν[ίου καὶ] αὐτο[κράτορος] [Αὐγούστου]: this peculiar word order in Justinian's dating formula is reconstructed according to the formulae attested in several earlier documents from Petra (538–44) and in Nessana as late as in 605, P. Ness. III 46.2 (see 2 1–9 comm.). The normal correct version, τοῦ αἰωνίου Αὐγούστου καὶ αὐτοκράτορος, is attested later in 25 (559) and 59 (568).

Φ[λ(αουίου) Βασιλείου τοῦ ἐνδοξ(οτάτου)]: the fragments here must be somehow confused. The trace of the letter *phi* is very uncertain, and it is found on a tiny piece labeled DBI 49, whereas this is rather the location of fr. DBI 47, which we have placed here as well. We thus assume that 49 does not form a separate layer. DBI 48 may give a couple of letters for this phrase, too, but the traces]δεκ[do not fit here (they would fit the word πεντεκαίδεκα).

2 Γορπ[ιαίου]ν τριακάδι: for the use of the substantival numeral to indicate the day of the month, see Introduction, p. 14.

τ[η]ς Π[α]λα[ι]στίνης Τρίτης C]αλο[υ]ταρίας: although the order is usually Τρίτη Παλαιστίνη Καλουταρία, the traces fit better this way.

After the place where the document was written, we would expect the name of the person who requested the transfer of taxation. The end of the line probably also presented the name of the tax collector (*hypodektes*) to whom the request was addressed. The addressees in the Petra *epistalmata* were usually named individually, though the other present and future holders of the office were usually included: 3 and 4 were addressed to Euthenios, son of Dusarios, *politeuomenos* and *hypodektes*, 19 to the present and future *chryshypodektai*, tax collectors of gold (later identified as Basileios), 23 to the *demosios chartophylax*, keeper of the public records, Alpheios, son of Valens (see also 65), and 25 to Fl. Valens, son of Auxolaos, *hypodektes* for the current year 558/59.

The end of the line contains several fragments with traces of letters. However, it is useless to print these uncertain groups in the transcript because their order is very uncertain, and we cannot form meaningful words out of the apparent two or three letters, which can be interpreted in multiple ways.

3 ἐ[πί]περ προ[]: the cause for the *epistalma* has been expressed in different words in the other requests from Petra; e.g., ἐπείπερ τῇ σήμερον ἡμέρᾳ πέπρακα (25); ἐπείπερ κατὰ ἔγγραφον ἐγχώρησεν (23), etc.

]ἐξεχωρ[η]: most likely a form of ἐκχωρέω, cf. 25 8, where this document is probably mentioned: [μα]καρ[(τωτάτου) Θ]εοδώρου Πατρ[ρ]ικίου τῆς [] ἐκχ[ω]ρη[θ]ε[ί]σης τελε[ί]ας αὐτοῦ γεωργία[ς].

The end of the line contains several fragments with traces of letters, see previous note. For example, fr. DB I 48 has the letters]οβ[and might thus read the name Obodianos.

4 [τό]πω Μα[λ ελ-]Αμρα [ἦ]το Μαλ ελ-[...]μερα: for μαλ (“property, estate”), see P. Petra II, p. 41, and Introduction, pp. 45–47 and 53–54. In 25, the toponyms are printed as Μαλ ε[λ]-Αμοα[?] ἦτοι Μαλ [αλ]-Εθερρο[...]εῖβα. We have checked the readings and conclude now that in 25 5 the reading of the first toponym is likely the same as here: Μαλ ε[λ]-Αμρα. The second toponym is more difficult, but Μαλ ε[λ]-Θερρα[] or Μαλ ελ-Ερρο[] seem more likely now than Μαλ [αλ]-Εθερρο. It is also reasonably clear that the Arabic article is ελ in both names in 22 5. The reading]εῖβα is very uncertain. The same toponyms are even more fragmented in the signatures of 25, where their reading is equally ambiguous, and the alternative presented in the transcript of 25 is only one of several.

μίας[γε]ωργίας [: in 25, the field is well-watered: ἐπί[ρρ]υτον μ[ίαν γε]ωργίαν, but here the word ἐπίρρυτος does not fit the traces, though we may have it in l. 6: [ἐπιρ]ύτου χ[ωρί]ου, cf. also 51 16.

Among the fragments at the end of the line, there is one (DB I 45–46) where an *iota* was written with a trema; this letter may have been the beginning of the word ἰνδικτίων or ἰούγερον, but there are of course other possibilities. Further in the line, another fragment assembly (DB II 34 + I 51) contains the letters] ὀγδοηκ[, either referring to the eighth (indiction), like in l. 6, or to the numeral eighty or eightieth.

6 [0–2]προ[...]α.ούς[η]ς ὀγδόη[ς ἰν]δικτί[ονος]: the line probably starts with προ, though the left margin is not preserved here. The traces of fr. EC I c4 should be placed before .ούς[η]ς, but the letters α and possibly μ make no sense, since we would expect a participle referring to the *past* eighth indiction, e.g., παρελθούσης, προελθούσης or προπαρελθούσης.

7 κ[ατ]αβεβλ[η]θη: cf. 19 10.

9 τούτου χάριν τὸ παρ[ὸν γε]γέννηται ἐπίσταμ[α πρὸς] τὴν [σὴν] αἰδησι[μότητα]: the honorific noun αἰδησιμότητα may have been abbreviated. For the phrase, cf. 23 11, τούτου χάριν πρὸς τὴν σὴν ε[ὐ]δοκίμειν τῷ παρόντι κέχρημαι ἐπιτάλματι κτλ, and 25 9, τὸ παρ[ὸν γε]γέννηται πρὸς τὴν σὴν αἰδ[ε]([εσιμότητα]) ἐπίσταμα δι' [ο]ῦ ἐπιτέλλω κτλ.

10 [πα]τριμονίου ἰούγε[ρ]ον ἐν ἔννατον: in **25** 10, we have πα]τριμον[ιαλ]ίου ἐξ ομάδος Αὐγο[υ]στοπόλεως ἰούγερον ἐν ἔννατον and, in line 17, in the signature of Philoumenos, ἐξ ὁ[μάδ]ος [Αὐ]γουστοπόλεως [πατ]ριμ[ωνίου] ἰ[ο]ύγερον [ἔ]ννατον.

βαρεῖν τὸν λόγον καὶ πρόσωπον: it seems that the words *logos* and *prosopon* without reference to *ousia* and *homas* are used when property in the registers of Augustopolis is discussed, cf. **3** 5 comm. and **19** 13–14 comm.

τοῦ εἰρημένου εὐδοκί[μ(ωτάτου) Θεοδώρου Ὀβοδιανοῦ [ἀπ]ὸ τῆς παρούσης [: the traces of εὐδοκί[μ(ωτάτου)] come from two different fragments; they might be read Θ]εοδω[ρου] as well, but ours is the more natural reading, as it tallies better with the available space. The line could continue, e.g., τῆς παρούσης τρικαιδεκάτης ἰνδικτίονος καὶ εἰς τὸν ἐξῆς ἅπαντα χρόνον ἐξ ομάδος Αὐγουστοπόλεως], cf. **25** 9 and 11.

10–11 [πρὸς γὰρ ἀσφάλειαν ὑμετέραν καὶ] τοῦ δημοσίου λόγο[υ] καὶ ἡμῶν δὲ αὐτῶν: cf. **23** 14.

κυρῶ[ε]ται: this rare verb is not previously attested in Petra, and a search “κυρῶσαι” yields only four occurrences of the form κυρῶσαι and one of ἀκυρῶσαι in papyri, all from the second century.

M. VIERROS, T. GAGOS, L. KOENEN

P. PETRA V 66: THE RECONSTRUCTED ORDER OF THE FRAGMENTS

DB-fragments: lines 1–5

I	29-32 (empty)	33		34	24b	35	24a	36		37	22?		38	2?		39	20		40	19		41	18		42	
II	22 (empty)		β1	21		20		19		18			17		16	25			15	26?		14	27?		13	28

I	I	17?		43?	16?		44	15		45- 46	14		47+49	12- 13		48			50	10?		51	8-9		52	[8]
II	(cont.)																									
II	(cont.)	12?	29		11?			10	30			9	31		8	32		7	33		6	34		5b?	35- 36	
																					(?)					

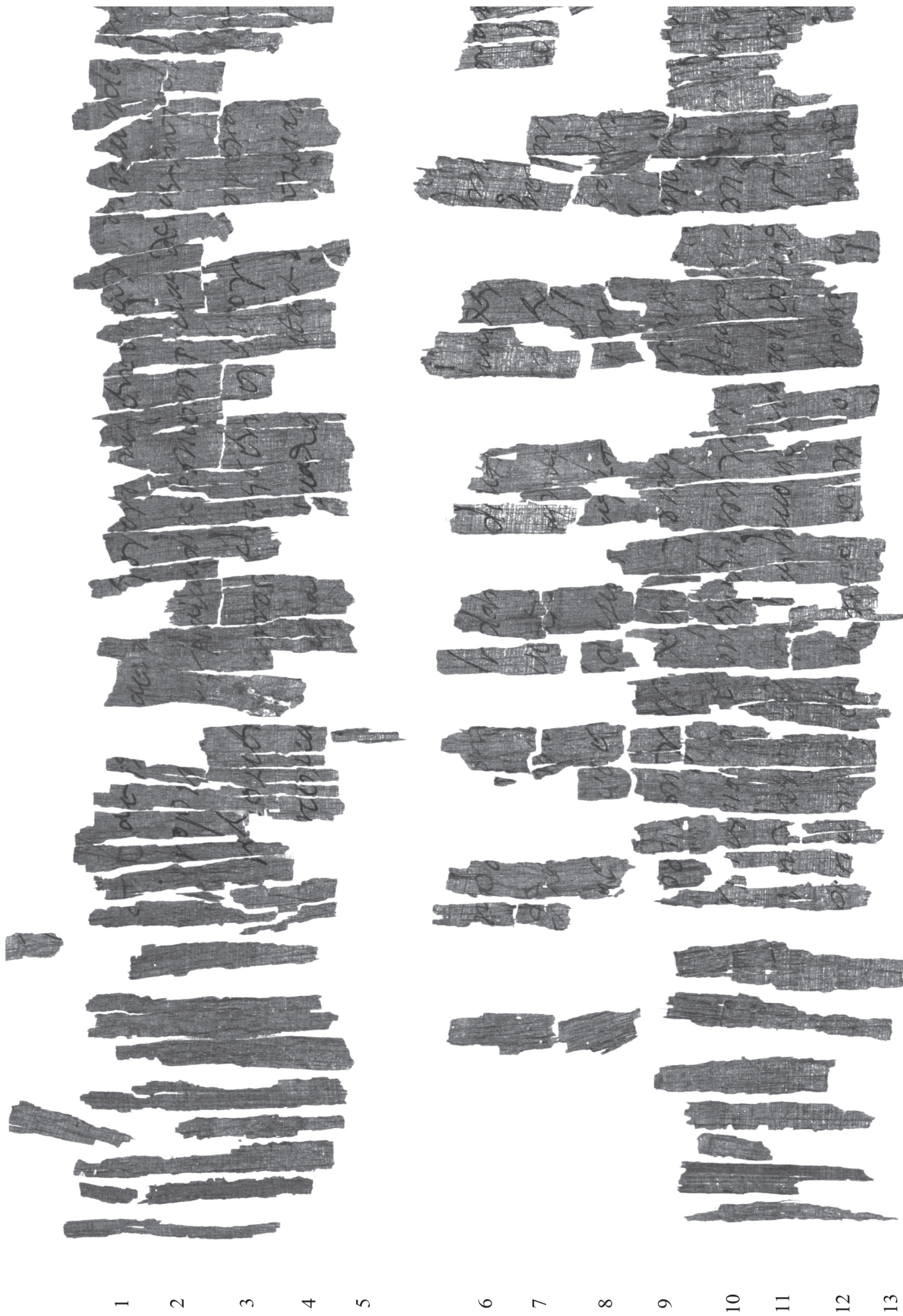
I	(cont.)		53	7 ²			54	6		55	5		56	4 ²		57- 58	3 empty frgs -->	59	1?		60+?
II	(cont.)	5?	[36]			4b ²	37		4a	38- 39		3b	40- 41		3a	42			2 ²		1

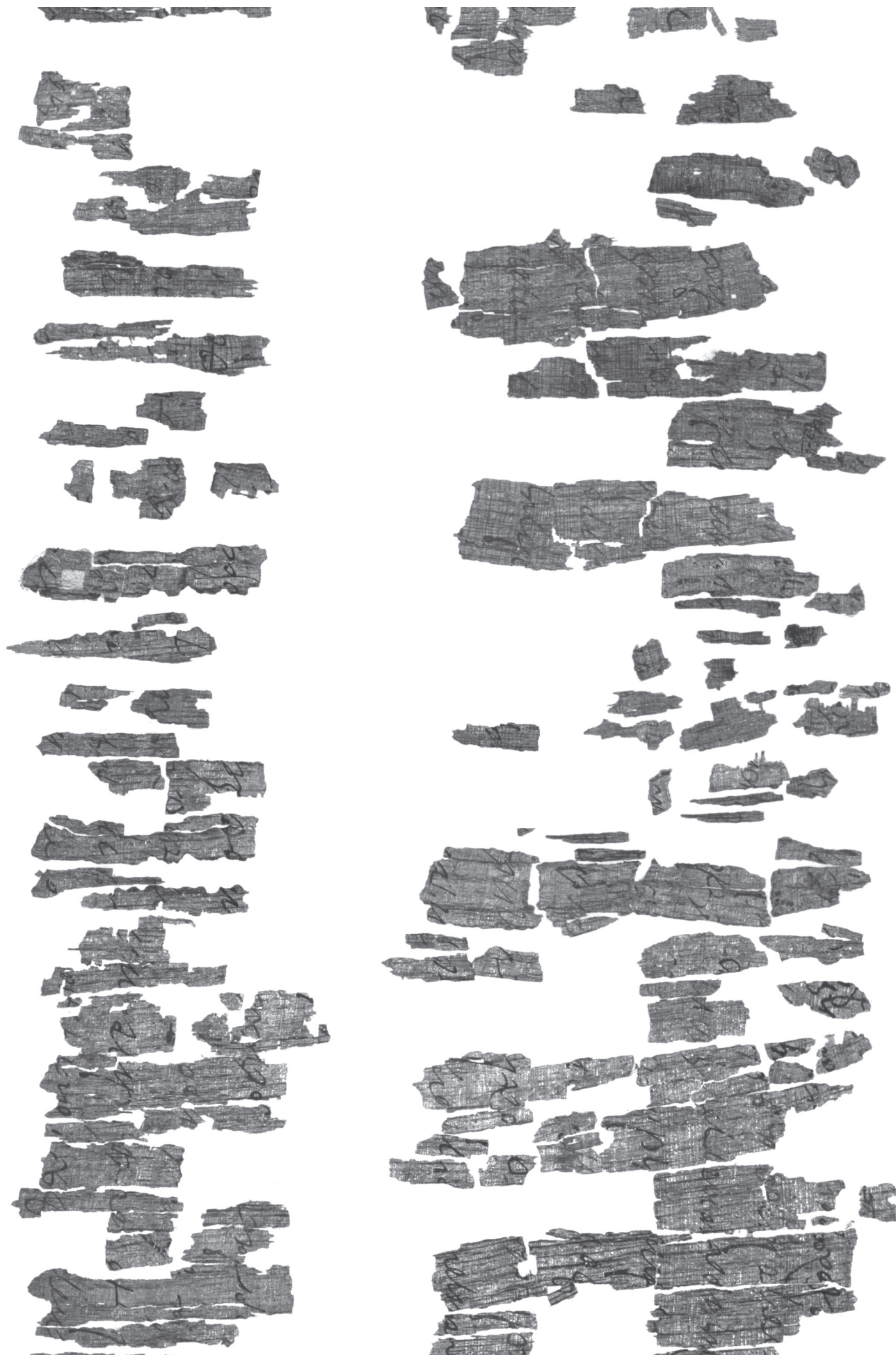
EC-fragments: lines 6-12

I	c1-2 a24-27 (empty)	a23 ¹	c3	a17	c4	a16	c5		a18	c6		a21	c7		a20?	c8		?	c9		a19	c10
II					a1		a2			a3			a4		a5				?			a7-8?
IV				a ⁽¹⁾ 2		a ⁽¹⁾ 3		a ⁽¹⁾ 4			a ⁽¹⁾ 5		a6			a7?				a8		[a9]
I (cont.)	a15?	c11		a14	c12			a12			a11		a10		a9				a8			
II		a9			a10a		a10b		a11			a12			a13		a14			a15		
IV			a10					a12		a13			a14		a15		a16	a1	15	a16- 17	a1	16
I (cont.)				a4																		
II					a18			a19														
IV		a19		a18?		a20	a1	19														
I (cont.)																						

EC III ?

1. Margin wht a bit of ink.

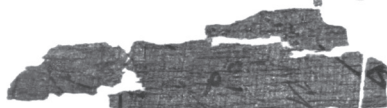
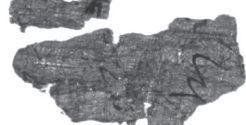
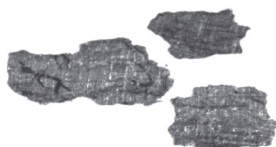
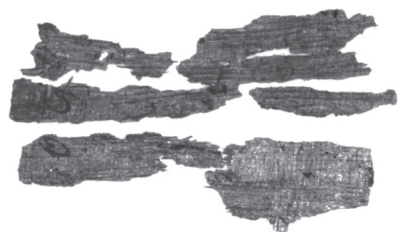
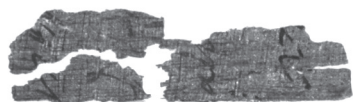
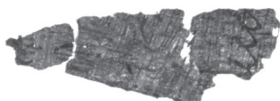
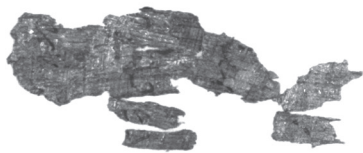




1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13



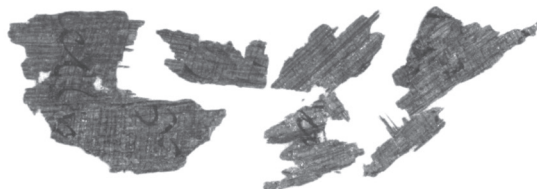
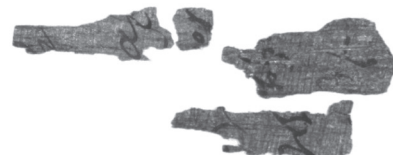
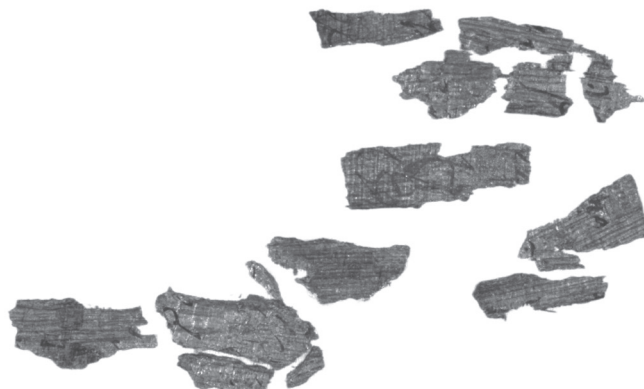
1

2

3

4

5



6

7

8

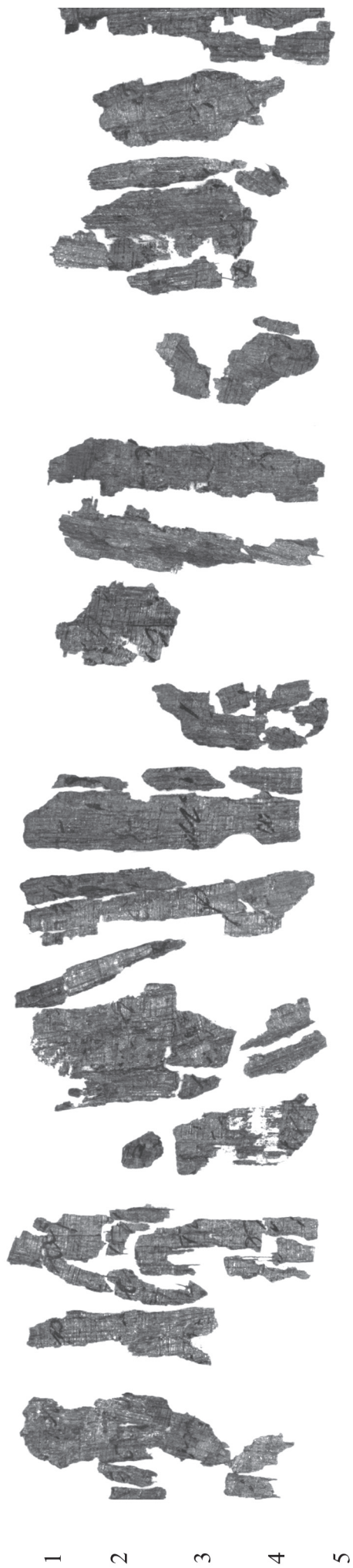
9

10

11

12

13





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13